

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method of automatically marking an article which is transferred in one direction, comprising the steps of:

storing in advance a pattern for coloring an outer surface of the article with a plurality of coloring agents of respective colors different from each other;
detecting a transfer speed of the article; and
spouting a plurality of the coloring agents of respective specific amount toward the outer surface of the article according to the pattern in response to the detected transfer speed.

Claim 2 (original): The method of automatically marking an article according to claim 1, wherein the article is an electric wire.

Claim 3 (original): A device for automatically marking an article which is transferred in one direction, comprising:

storing means for storing a pattern for coloring an outer surface of the article with a plurality of coloring agents of respective colors different from each other;
detecting means for detecting a transfer speed of the article;
a plurality of spouting means for spouting the coloring agents of respective colors different

from each other of respective specific amount toward the outer surface of the article; and control means to make a plurality of the spouting means spout the coloring agent toward the outer surface of the article according to the pattern in response to the transfer speed of the article detected by the detecting means.

Claim 4 (original): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of the spouting means are arranged along the transfer direction of the article and the control means makes the spouting means spout the coloring agent according to a distance between the spouting means.

Claim 5 (original): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of the spouting means are arranged along a circumferential direction around the article.

Claim 6 (original): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 5, wherein the spouting means spouts the coloring agent through an opening, which faces the outer surface of the article, a straight line obtained by connecting a center of the opening and a center of the article runs along a spouting direction of the coloring agent, and the spouting direction crosses both perpendicular and horizontal directions at an angle of 45°.

Claim 7 (original): The device for automatically marking an article as claimed in any one of claims 3 – 6, further comprising a device body for receiving the storing means and the control means, wherein the device body comprises a plurality of connectors for connecting the device body to the spouting means and the connectors are provided in the same number as that of the spouting

means according to the respective spouting means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The device for automatically marking an article as claimed in any one of ~~claims 3-7~~ claims 3-6, wherein the article is an electric wire.

Claim 9 (original): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 8, wherein the electric wire is put in an electric wire cutting machine which cuts the electric wire after transferring the electric wire in said one direction.